

Special District Health Coordinator Meeting, March 25, 2020

Q. I have not been able to find information regarding the viability of COVID-19 on paper. We are not able to reach all students with online format and concerned about papers returning to school after being in undetermined environments. Direction on this would be very helpful.

A. “Many, many agencies, businesses and people use paperwork or other things that can potentially be contaminated by the virus. The delivery box coming to a home has that potential. While a recent study did document how long the virus CAN live on certain products, it did not have anything to say about the potential for becoming infected from that source. In order for that to happen the surface and surrounding environmental factors would have to be favorable to sustain the virus for a period of time, and the person that is originally handling the items would have to be ill with the virus and producing sufficient respiratory related medium (sputum, etc.) to harbor the virus on the surface, and get that medium on the item. The CDC states that while it is known that corona virus can live a certain amount of time on various surfaces in certain conditions, this is not thought to be the main method of transmission:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/transmission.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fabout%2Ftransmission.html

In order to get a virus from an object that met the criteria above, the person receiving the object would then need to touch the area that was contaminated while the virus was still viable and then touch their own eyes, mouth or nose with sufficient quantity to become infected. The virus would not be in the air from the object – that comes from breathing near a person who has the virus and has aerosolized it by coughing or sneezing, so a mask is not needed to handle objects that come in. Staff need to follow the current related guidance for protective measures remembering to not touch their faces and to wash/sanitize hands regularly when handling things.” - CDC

Many districts are providing boxes for parents to put the returned paperwork in. These boxes are not touched for a certain period (anywhere between 24 and 72 hours) before being removed and graded. Frequent handwashing should be practiced as well as avoiding touching your face when handing papers.

Q. I am not able to find a clear cut answer on CDC of Kentucky's website.....What is the recommendation for students/teachers/caregivers who have a fever or have been exposed to someone with a fever (no respiratory symptoms) and not tested or seen by a provider for COVID-19? Should they isolate and if so for how long?

A. I would just say that if they have symptoms of illness of any kind they should practice social distancing and infection prevention measures, including scrupulous hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, staying home when sick, staying out of groups of people and public settings, not taking public transportation, and keeping away from family members and friends until their

symptoms resolve. We have many pathogens circulating this time of year and the best way to prevent transmission is to practice these sorts of things. – From our CDC Field Officer

Q. What do we do about non-compliance on immunizations/physicals?

A. Given the pandemic, we don't need students out in public, possibly being exposed. This isn't a priority currently. This is something that can be addressed down the road when things return to normal.

Q. Should we tighten restrictions within the school regarding parents/visitors walking kids to classes in the mornings or screening students/staff's temperatures on arrival to school?

A. We will follow recommendations of the CDC and DPH once the time comes.

Q. What are your recommendations for school nurses to have on hand regarding PPE?

A. At minimum, you should have gloves and masks on hand. Given the shortage of PPE, it may be difficult to get them at this point. Hopefully before the beginning of next school year, the supply will be normalized. Some districts that have donated their extra PPE to local hospitals and DPH. I applaud your efforts. When donating your supply, make sure to have the PPE you will need in the event we return to school this year.

Q. Are there certain protocols that need to be initiated when providing food to homes in the districts. Should we be screening and checking temperatures of staff involved?

A. Contact your local health department contact that inspects restaurants as they are the experts this area. At minimum, staff should be practicing good hand washing, screening for symptoms or fever 100.0) as well as practicing social distancing.

The following link, provided by the Department for Public Health, includes frequently asked questions from the Food and Drug Administration regarding the Novel Coronavirus.

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-issues/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions#food>

Tips for Meal Kit and Food Delivery Safety

- <https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/communication/food-safety-meal-kits.html>

Both can be found here: <https://education.ky.gov/federal/SCN/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>

Q. Are there certain symptoms that are concerning and not concerning since allergy season is upon us and it mimics some of the symptoms of allergies?

A. Allergies generally present with sneezing, runny nose and eyes. Patients with Covid 19 generally present with dry cough, fever and shortness of breath.

Q. Will the Kentucky School Nurses Conference still be held this year?

A. The conference is held by the Kentucky School Nurses Association, not KDE. As of March 26th, it is still being held as scheduled in July. Watch the listervs for more information

Q. Will there be any penalty for districts who have not been able to perform required vision and hearing screenings this school year?

A. No, KDE will extract any health data that is entered in Infinite Campus on June 1, 2020. However, there will be no penalty for districts who have not completed screenings or other required health items due to Covid-19.

Q. How long should staff stay away from school if they are experiencing symptoms?

A. Per the CDC, the incubation period for Covid-19 is 14 days.

Q. Will there be penalties for schools that are having trouble getting required immunizations and exams next school year because doctors aren't providing this type of care during the Covid-19 outbreak?

A. No, this is anticipated.

Q. Will classified staff who are unable to fulfil their contracts lose pay?

A. Classified staff have until June 30th of each year to fulfill their contract days. Commissioner Brown is encouraging superintendents to be creative in how contracts can be fulfilled. KDE does not want anyone's income to be affected and is looking into possible solutions.

Q. Do we know what the benefits of SB 177 will be for staff and districts?

A. KDE's legal team is currently reviewing it and we will share that information once it becomes available.